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**THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

*"No money shall be paid out of  
the state treasury except in pursuance  
of appropriations made by law."*

*—Michigan Constitution  
Article IX, Section 17*

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## **GOP and Dems reject Granholm road plan**

*State Senate votes unanimously to fund 34 projects*

LANSING – Gov. Jennifer Granholm's plan to gut 34 road projects located throughout Michigan was defeated today by Senate lawmakers who voted unanimously to fund the projects.

"This is a big win for the people, not only because it provides money for these vital projects, but also because the apolitical process used to prioritize them has been restored," said state Sen. Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "Roads are about safety, and safety cannot be held hostage as a political bargaining chip."

The 34 projects – 16 of which were in Oakland County – were on hold indefinitely after state Department of Transportation Director Gloria Jeff and Granholm proposed a plan to fix other roads. The administration's plan, though, came under serious scrutiny because it contained projects selected outside of the normal, non-partisan process.

Lawmakers from both parties and both chambers balked at the autocratic move. The House voted 104-3 to approve funding for the 34 projects. The Senate followed suit today with a unanimous vote to concur with the House.

Johnson, along with her colleagues from Oakland County, Sens. Nancy Cassis and Michael Bishop, sent a letter earlier this month to Jeff, urging her to remedy her earlier decision and follow the process already in place.

"The governor told a newspaper this week that she didn't know the importance of safe roads in Oakland County," Johnson said. "The overwhelming bipartisan support in both houses should send a strong signal that Michigan does not want politics involved in road policy and a non-partisan process that does place safety first ought to be respected."